

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08239 211137Z
ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP NO. 7

1. THE EXECUTIVE WILL RELEASE 400 MORE PERSONS DETAINED ON SUBVERSION CHARGES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, ACCORDING TO INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY IN A MAGAZINE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED THIS WEEK. IN HIS PREPARED ANSWER TO A QUESTIONNAIRE PUBLISHED IN DISCUSSION, HARGUINDEGUY ALSO SAID THAT A LIST OF 200 DETAINEES FREED IN NOVEMBER WILL BE RELEASED SOON. TOGETHER WITH THE 200 FREED IN OCTOBER, THE TOTAL RELEASE IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF 1976 WILL BE 800, HE SAID. (COMMENT: THE NOVEMBER LIST HE REFERRED TO HAS NOT YET APPEARED.)

2. THE ARGENTINE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE HAS ASKED PRESIDENT VIDELA TO GIVE "FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION" TO PERSONS IMPRISONED IN ARGENTINA DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, IT WAS ANNOUNCED DEC. 16. THE NOTE, TOGETHER WITH HIS PERSONAL APPEAL, WAS DELIVERED TO VIDELA BY CONFERENCE PRESIDENT CARDINAL PRIMATESTA AT A MEETING DEC. 8. ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, VIDELA TOLD JOURNALISTS ON DEC. 16 THAT, ALTHOUGH THE ANTI-GUERRILLA WAR WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL SUBVERSION WAS ANNIHILATED, IT WAS NECESSARY, IN CONTINUING THE WAR, TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. IF NOT, VIDELA SAID, "WE LOSE SIGHT OF ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08239 211137Z

REASONS WE ARE FIGHTING THE WAR, WHICH IS THE DEFENSE AND DIGNITY OF MAN." VIDELA HAS ALSO SENT A MESSAGE CONGRATULATING POPE PAUL FOR HIS DEC. 14 PAPAL PEACE MESSAGE, THE PRESS REPORTED YESTERDAY (DEC. 19). IN HIS MESSAGE, VIDELA DESCRIBED THE ARDUOUS GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE UNJUST AGGRESSION. "WE ARE DETERMINED TO WIN THE PEACE AND REORGANIZE A COMMUNITY ON THE

SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH THE NATION WAS BUILT. THE DECISIVE BATTLE HAS BEEN WON BUT THE FIGHT CONTINUES TO CONSTRUCT THE PEACE." VIDELA ASSURED THE POPE HIS PEACE MESSAGE "WOULD NOT FALL UPON DEAF EARS."

3. POLICE RELEASED TWO OF THE FOUR PRIESTS ARRESTED IN THE NOV. 29 RAID ON SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL, ACCORDING TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY DEC. 15. THE TWO WERE IGNACIO RACEDO ARAGON, FATHER-SUPERIOR OF THE LOURDES ORDER WHICH RUNS THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL, AND ANDRES BAQUE. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED DEC. 18 THAT THE FORN MINISTRY WHICH HANDLES RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH IN ARGEMNINA) HAS REPLIED TO A FORMAL REQUEST BY ARCHBISHOP ARAMBURU FOR A REPORT ON THE RAID AND THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THE PRIESTS. CONTENTS OF THE MINISTRY'S REPORT WERE NOT REVEALED.

4. TWO PROFESSORS CHARGED IN AN IDEOLOGICAL INFILTRATION PLOT IN BAHIA BLANCA WERE CLEARED BY A FEDERAL JUDGE DEC. 16. THE TWO HAD BEEN INDICTED FOR INDOCTRINATING STUDENTS IN LEFTIST IDEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH IN BAHIA BLANCA. IN HIS DECISION, THE JUDGE SAID THE INDICTMENT SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE HONOR AND GOOD NAME OF THE MEN CLEARED.

5. A SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL SET UP UNDER THE FIFTH ARMY CORPS IN BAHIA BLANCA ON DEC. 16 HAS TRIED THREE PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF THE PERONIST ARMED FORCES (FAP). TWO WERE SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND INCITING PUBLIC DISTURBANCE; THE OTHER TO 6 MONTHS AS ACCESSORY. APPARENTLY THIS IS THE FIRST SPECIAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL ESTABLISHED TO TRY CIVILIANS FOR SUBVERSIVE CRIMES SINCE THE NOV. 29 LAW AUTHORIZING THEIR CREATION BY MILITARY COMMANDERS WAS PASSED. (COMMENT: THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 08239 211137Z

SENTENCES IMPOSED WERE CONSIDERABLY LIGHTER THAN THOSE PERMITTED BY LAW, WHICH PROVIDES FOR SENTENCES OF UP TO EIGHT YEARS FOR DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER AND POSSESSION.)

6. POLICE ARE SEEKING SOCIOLOGIST JOSE LUIS DIOS, AN ADVISOR IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOR THE BOMBING THERE ON DEC. 15 IN WHICH 11 PERSONS WERE KILLED. DIOS HAD WORKED IN THE OFFICE SINCE 1969. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DIOS WAS KNOWN TO BE A PERONIST AND EXTREMIST SINCE 1973 BUT HAD "INEXPLICABLY ESCAPED SUCCESSIVE PURGES" OF HIS DEFENSE OFFICE. REPORTEDLY HE LEFT A BRIEFCASE CONTAINING THE BOMB IN THE CINEMA AND THEN DISAPPEARED.

7. PERMANENT ASSEMBLY OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS ASKED PRESIDENT VIDELA TO RELEASE A LIST OF PERSONS DETAINED, THEIR WHEREABOUTS AND CHARGES AGAINST THEM IN A PAPER PRESENTED TO VIDELA EARLIER THIS WEEK, ACCORDING TO LA NACION DEC. 15. THE PAPER NOTES THAT THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IS NOT ONLY HAMPERED BY THE WAR

AGAINST SUBVERSION BUT ALSO BY PERSONS WHO CONVOKE IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATIONS. IT MENTIONS THOUSANDS OF LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE ASSEMBLY RELATING TO CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES, TORTURE, ROBBERY DURING SECURITY RAIDS, DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE AND SAYS THAT THE LACK OF INFORMATION FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES IS CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF TERROR AND INSECURITY.

8. THE DELEGATION OF ARGENTINE-ISRAELI ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA), THE ARGENTINA-ISRAEL MUTUAL ASSOCIATION, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL IMMIGRATION SERVICE CELEBRATED THE CONTRIBUTION OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN ARGENTINA AT A DEC. 15 PROGRAM COMMEMORATING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLONIZATION AND IMMIGRATION LAW. IN HIS SPEECH, DAIA PRESIDENT RESNIZKY WARNED AGAINST DISTORTIONS IN THE NAME OF NATIONALISM, SAYING IT IS "CRIMINAL TO INCITE ARGENTINES TO CIVIL WAR AS DO THOSE WHO PRODUCE RACIST PUBLICATIONS."

10. ARGENTINA HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT A RESIDENT DELEGATION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 08239 211137Z

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND ITS PROGRAM OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR DETAINEES, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN LA RAZON DEC . 15. PRESIDENT VIDELA TOLD VISITING IRC PRESIDENT ALEXANDER HAY THAT THE RED CROSS COULD ORGANIZE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IT WANTED, PARTICULARLY ON BEHALF OF DETAINEES. THE REPORT NOTED THAT UUGUAY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE IRC PROGRAM.
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